

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

SKETCHES
OF
LEGISLATORS

AND
STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

BY JOHN CARDWELL.

AUSTIN, TEXAS:
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN OFFICE PRINT.
1876.

NINTH DISTRICT.

Counties.—Rusk, Panola and Shelby.

REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN M. BAKER was born in Alabama, January 20, 1850. He was raised and educated in his native State, came to Texas in 1869, settled at Carthage, in Panola county, and commenced the study of law in the office of Col. A. W. DeBerry, now Secretary of State. Having been admitted to the bar, with some distinction, he opened a law office in Carthage, and now carries on the practice of his profession in that place.

Mr. Baker has allied himself earnestly to the Democratic faith, and the people of his district, recognizing him as a young gentleman of firm purposes and ability, and trustworthy, centered upon him as their choice for Representative. He was elected without opposition by 3904 votes.

Mr. Baker is the youngest member of the Fifteenth Legislature, and a married man. He is a gentleman of modest demeanor; is heard but seldom upon the floor of the House, and is then listened to with attention; has a good legal mind, and analyzes questions with ease and perspicuity. He is very youthful in appearance, and is a man of less than ordinary size, and of delicate frame.